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## **GaBio Honors Dunwoody HS Student At Georgia Science and Engineering Fair**

**ATLANTA, GA (April 7, 2009)** – Georgia Bio presented its annual student science award, sponsored by Merial Ltd., to Dunwoody High School sophomore Lauren Fleck at the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair (GSEF) April 4.

Ms. Fleck's project was "Can a VP Shunt Malfunction be Determined Without a CT Scan or MRI?" She received a cash prize and plaque. Her teacher is Dr. Trinna McKay, Science Department Instructional Leader at Dunwoody High School. The award was presented by Cinda Herndon-King, Ph.D., Georgia Bio's Director of Education Programs.

Ventricular-Peritoneal (VP) shunts are implanted to control hydrocephalus in the brain. Blockage of shunts can be difficult to diagnose and life-threatening. In her project, Ms. Fleck constructed an apparatus to mimic various shunt blockages, and showed that nanotechnology pressure sensors could be used to detect differential pressure readings characteristic of each blockage condition.

The annual Georgia Bio award recognizes the GSEF project judged to exhibit the most potential for improving society, health and the environment through the use of modern biotechnology techniques.

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**Georgia Bio** ([www.gabio.org](http://www.gabio.org)) is the private, non-profit association representing more than 300 pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device and diagnostic companies, healthcare systems, universities, research institutes and other organizations involved in the research and development of life sciences products that improve the health and well-being of people, animals and the environment worldwide.

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